Pradesh and the concerned Departments/Ministries of the Central Government.

Cleaning up the Balance Sheet of IDPL

*98 SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to take a series of measures to clean-up the balance sheet of indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (IDPL), as a prelude to its privatisation; and

(b) if so, what are these measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) A communication has been sent to the Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) intimating the following concessions/facilities for cleaning up the balance sheet of IDPL that the Government intends to provide to facilitate its privatisation through the induction of strategic partners:

(i) Conversion of Government loan into equity,

(ii) Waiver of interest/penal interest and guarantee fee by the Government of India,

(iii) Payment of outstanding statutory dues and funding of VRS.

BIFR has been requested to invite fresh proposals to explore the possibility of privatizing each of the units of IDPL (including the 100% owned subsidiaries) separately.

Railway Bridges in Karnataka

*99. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many railway bridges in Karnataka are in distress condition;

(b) whether Government have taken any action to replace them; and

(c) if so, the amount provided for replacement of these bridges during 2001-2002?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) There are 26 Railway Bridges in distressed condition in Karnataka as on 31.10.2001.

(b) Yes, Sir. Action to rehabilitate/rebuild these distressed bridges has been initiated.

(c) Rs. 133 lakh approximately has been provided for replacement of these bridges during 2001-2002.

Revival of SSPL

*100. SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 187, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 3rd August, 2001, and state:

(a) Whether, in response to winding-up notice by BIFR, M/s SSPL, M/s Smith Stanistreet Pharmaceuticals Ltd., had forwarded a revival scheme, approved by its Board;

(b) Whether the same was discussed in joint meeting held by IIBI on 15th October, 2001;

(c) Whether, in the meeting, Government did not offer any comments on the proposal;

(d) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(e) the steps taken by Government, in consultation with SSPL Management and IIBI, to prepare a workable scheme within a month to ensure revival of SSPL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes Sir.

(c) and (d) The Government representative, who participated in the joint meeting, did point out the various loose ends in the company's proposal.